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65th YEAR

VOLUME 65
NUMBER 243

RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1915.—TEN PAGES.

WEATHER
PAGE 7—FAIR

PRICE, 2 CENTS

U. S. FINANCIERS WILL UNDERWRITE MAMMOTH LOAN

Syndicate of Bankers to Re-
ceive Commission for
Its Services.

AMOUNT OF BIG CREDIT
NOT YET DETERMINED

Will Be Between \$600,000,000
and \$800,000,000 at 5
Per Cent.

OPEN TO NEARLY ALL BANKS

Whether Munitions of War Will Be
Included Within Scope
Still Undecided.

NEW YORK, September 19.—The
proposed mammoth credit loan to Great
Britain and France, it was reported to-
night, is to be underwritten by a large
syndicate of American financiers and
bankers, who are to receive a commis-
sion for their services. The securities
offered, it was said, will be British and
French 5 per cent government bonds, and
the price to the investor is to be 100.

The amount of the loan, it was re-
ported, is as yet undetermined, but
will be between \$600,000,000 and \$800,000,000.

Whether munitions of war will be in-
cluded within the scope of the proposed
loan, so far as could be learned to-
night, has not been decided.

The underwriting syndicate, it was
reported, will be the largest of its kind
ever established in the United States,
and probably will be open to nearly all
national banks, trust companies and
State banks that may care to partici-
pate.

CONSIDERED VICTORY
FOR U. S. FINANCIERS

Elimination of the reported difference
in opinion between American financiers
and members of the Anglo-French com-
mission over the manner of placing the
loan, apparently has resulted in a vic-
tory for the American financiers. Pre-
vious reports were to the effect that
the commission's views were that the
loan should be placed by subscription,
and that there should be no under-
writing syndicate.

The American conferees were re-
ported to favor adoption of a plan
whereby a syndicate would underwrite
the big issue, and would receive at
least one-half of 1 per cent for its ser-
vices. This, it is reported, has been the
plan tentatively agreed to.

Efforts to elicit an expression of the
commission's views on this point to-
night were futile.

So far as the plan has now developed,
it is the intention of the conferees, it
is reported, to open their books vir-
tually to all banks, if not all who wish
to participate, and to place the bonds
with any and all of them, pro-German
and otherwise, at a figure only a shade
better than that which the investor
will have to pay, which it was said to-
night, will be par. The interest rate,
it was understood, has been definitely
agreed upon at 5 per cent.

ONE VITAL ISSUE
REMAINS FOR DECISION

One vital issue yet remains for de-
cision, whether the big sum realized by
the sale of the bonds shall be avail-
able for the payment of munitions of
war, as well as wheat, cotton and other
commodities. Chief among other minor
details yet to be worked out is the
matter of Russia's participation. Indi-
cations were to-night that munitions
would be excluded from the scope of
the loan, and that another method
would be adopted to pay for them.

Two obvious ways of doing this are
specie payment in gold to be shipped to
the United States from abroad, or
payment by the sale in this market of
American securities owned in Great
Britain and France. The former
method is regarded as undesirable by
both parties to the negotiations. The
latter is said to be regarded as un-
desirable by members of the commis-
sion, inasmuch as it would entail the
necessity of their respective govern-
ments obtaining possession of the
American securities to be sold, and
these are in the hands of private in-
vestors.

They might be forced out of the pri-
vate investors' hands, it was said, by a
tax, but both Great Britain and France
apparently have been loath to go to
this extreme.

It was said to be within the range of
possibilities that a separate credit loan
would be established to provide funds
for payment of war munitions, but this
was regarded as unlikely.

Whether Russia will participate in
the loan will depend, it was said,
wholly upon the conference at London
among the Russian and French Finance
Ministers and the British Chancellor of
the Exchequer.

CEASES TO BE NEUTRAL

La Follette Declares United States Is
Underwriting Success of Cause
of Allies.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
MADISON, WIS., September 19.—
"With our manufacturing interests ex-
tending enormous credits to the allies
and without money interests com-
mitted to keep the bonds of the allied
countries good, we are underwriting
the success of the cause of the allies.
We have ceased to be neutral in fact,
as well as in name, and are no longer
at free to do what is honest and
unintended and truly serviceable for
peace of the world, and it is an unholy
business."

This is the message which Senator
Robert M. La Follette announced in a
signed article on the front page of
his magazine.

Daniels Asks Ideas of Civilian Board

Wants Navy to Maintain Labo-
ratory for Development of
Inventions.

WASHINGTON, September 19.—Secre-
tary Daniels, it was announced to-day,
has requested members of the new
naval advisory council on inventions,
headed by Thomas A. Edison, to formu-
late ideas as to an experimental and
research laboratory to be maintained
by the Navy Department for the de-
velopment of inventions. The secre-
tary, in a letter to the members of the
advisory council, asks them to be ready
with their ideas when the council holds
its first meeting next month.

"In addition to securing the advice
of the most famous inventors of the
country and in organizing in a prac-
tical and efficient way to get such ad-
vice," said Mr. Daniels in a statement
to-night, "I intend greatly to develop
the resources of the Navy Department
itself, and to increase largely its facili-
ties for experimental work in the line
of developing unperfected inventions."
The department possesses, in the
chiefs of the three bureaus of con-
struction, steam engineering and ordn-
ance, and in the offices assigned to
those bureaus, men splendidly qualified
to carry to perfection any novel ideas
and to originate many improvements
of their own."

VIEWS NOT IN HARMONY

Vice-President Marshall Advocates Ade-
quate Defense, While Bryan
Opposes Preparedness.

BOSTON, MASS., September 19.—Less-
ons drawn from the war in Europe
were discussed by Vice-President Mar-
shall and former Secretary of State
Bryan before different audiences to-
day. Speaking at a "World Peace Ser-
vice" conducted by an organization of
Old Fellows, Mr. Marshall said there
was a need for "adequate steps to
preserve our republic." He disclaimed
being a militarist, but added: "I would
like to have a citizen soldiery, by which
I mean a body of citizens whose first
choice would be the flag of the United
States, and who would know which
end of a gun to put to their shoulders."
Mr. Bryan, who delivered a lecture at
Braves' Field, particularly opposed
"preparedness."

The former secretary said that no
nation challenged us now, but that "if
any of the madmen of Europe should
challenge us our nation would be just-
ified in saying, 'No, we will not battle
with you; we have 100,000,000 of people
to guard, we have countless ideals to
preserve, and we will not go down
and wallow in the mud of war with you.'"

SECOND CLASH IN HAITI

Several Americans Wounded and Num-
ber of Natives Killed in
Skirmish.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]
PORT-AU-PRINCE, September 19.—
Several Americans were wounded and
a number of natives killed in a skirm-
ish to-day at Gonaves between Ameri-
can marines and Cacos, members of a
Haitian faction which has been promi-
nently identified with the revolutionary
movement.

The fight between the marines and
Cacos was the second clash the marines
have had since the United States began
taking charge of the principal Haitian
towns several weeks ago. The first
clash was at Port-au-Prince, and re-
sulted in the death of two marines and
the wounding of several.

FIRE-PREVENTION DAY

Safety First Federation Names October
9 as Time for National Ob-
servance.

NEW YORK, September 19.—The
Safety First Federation of America an-
nounced to-day that Saturday, October
9, the anniversary of the Chicago fire,
had been designated as the national
fire prevention day, with plans for a
general observance in many cities
throughout the country. The Governor
of each State has been requested to
issue a proclamation asking the public
to co-operate in the movement.

The need of this observance, accord-
ing to the federation's statement, is
made necessary by the fact that the
fire loss in the United States and Can-
ada in 1914 was estimated at \$235,-
591,350.

ERB MUCH IMPROVED

Condition So Much Better That Phy-
sician Has No Doubt of
His Recovery.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NEW YORK, September 19.—The
condition of Newman Erb, who through
mistake swallowed two bichloride of
mercury tablets last Tuesday, while en
route to his home at Deal, N. J., had
improved so much to-day that his phy-
sicians had little doubt of his recov-
ery. The patient declared he would be
sitting up by Wednesday. Dr. Robert
Offenbach said to-night:

"Mr. Erb had a very comfortable day.
There have been no untoward devel-
opments of any kind. If we have any
kind of luck, he should recover."

WARSHIP GOES TO ORIENT

Cruiser Brooklyn Passes Out to Sea
After Lying at Philadelphia Navy-
Yard for Several Years.

PHILADELPHIA, September 19.—
The cruiser Brooklyn, which had been
lying at the Philadelphia Navy-Yard
for several years, passed out to sea to-
day bound for the Orient, via the Pan-
ama Canal to replace the cruiser Sara-
toga as flagship of Rear-Admiral Vin-
terhalter of the Asiatic Fleet. Before
starting the transpacific trip, however,
the Brooklyn will go to Newport and
probably will act as umpire ship dur-
ing the approaching war game of the
Atlantic Fleet.

TO TAKE NO ACTION ON DUMBA LETTER

Possibility of Hastening Depart-
ure by Giving Him Passports
Is Not Considered.

WILSON AND POLK CONFER

Austrian Envoy Criticizes Ameri-
can Government in Connection
With Request for Recall.

WASHINGTON, September 19.—High
officials indicated to-night that no
further steps were contemplated
against Dr. Constantin Theodor Dum-
ba, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador,
on account of his letter to Secretary
Lansing criticizing the treatment ac-
corded him by the American government
in connection with the request for his re-
call. It was stated that the possibility
of hastening the diplomat's departure
from the country by handing him his
passports had not been considered.

Dr. Dumba's letter was received at
the State Department yesterday, and
was the subject of a conference be-
tween President Wilson and Acting
Secretary Polk. No announcement was
made, and at that time officials had
no idea the ambassador intended to
make the communication public, as he
did last night in New York.

The official view, as authoritatively
explained to-day, of that part of Dr.
Dumba's letter in which he sought to
show that he had not been guilty of im-
proper conduct warranting a request
for his recall, is that the ambassador
only partially stated the case, and "set
up a man of straw to knock it down."
The letter defended at length the right
of the ambassador to inform nationals
of his country they were violating Aus-
tro-Hungarian laws in working in
plants turning out munitions of war
for the allies.

STATEMENT IN LETTER

REASON FOR ACTION

It was pointed out by officials that
this point was not in issue, but that the
reason for the Washington govern-
ment's action was the feeling of disap-
pointment by the ambassador in the in-
tercepted letter to his Foreign Minister.
"I am under the impression that we
could, if not entirely prevent the pro-
tection of war materials in Bethlehem
and the Middle West, at any rate
strongly discourage it and hold it up
for months, which, according to the
statement of the German military at-
tache, is of great importance, and
which amply outweighs the relatively
small sacrifice of money."

State Department officials have not
been informed of Dr. Dumba's plan
for leaving the United States, although
it is known that he has asked his gov-
ernment to order him home to make a
strong personal report on his case. So
long as he quits the country and does
not appear again as an envoy in Wash-
ington, it is understood that the United
States government will not be disposed
to question the manner of his going
or the nature of his orders from Vienna.

NOTHING IS KNOWN

OF SUCH MESSAGE

Regarding the ambassador's charge
in his letter to Mr. Lansing that he
had not been allowed to communicate
freely with his government and that
a message giving his report on his ac-
tivities had been held up by censors
in this country it was said at the State
and Navy Departments to-night that
nothing was known of such a mes-
sage.

Secretary Daniels, under whose juris-
diction the wireless censorship falls,
stated that in cases of importance, he
was consulted before dispatches were
rejected, and that such a message, as
the one spoken of by Dr. Dumba, had
never been called to his attention.
This question will be investigated
further to-morrow.

Dr. Dumba's declaration that a brief
confidential message sent by him to
Vienna by wireless asking that he be
recalled on leave was allowed to be
sent, and that he was being investi-
gated, was published by a New York
newspaper, and it was said to-day that
efforts were being made to discover
whether the law prohibiting telegraph
operators from divulging messages has
been violated.

COPY OF MEMORANDUM

OF HUNGARIAN EDITOR

With his letter Dr. Dumba inclosed
a copy of memorandum drawn up by
a Hungarian editor in this country and
furnished to the ambassador by Alex-
ander Nuber von Persek, Austro-Hun-
garian consul-general in New York,
relating to "disturbances" which it was
proposed to cause in munition plants
at Bethlehem, Pa., and in the Middle
West. This memorandum was one of
the documents taken from James F. J.
Archibald, the American newspaper
correspondent in London.

Acting Secretary Polk said to-night
that this memorandum would not be
made public for the present, because
Dr. Dumba said that the original was
in Hungarian, and that he could not
vouch for the correctness of the trans-
lation. Copies of all the documents
taken from Archibald are expected to
arrive at the State Department this
week. When they are received, officials
will decide whether to take any action
against the Austro-Hungarian consul-
general, Captain Frank von Papen, the
German military attache here, and the
Hungarian editor who drew up the
memorandum.

Archibald himself is expected in
Washington this week to explain to
the State Department his action in
carrying messages for a foreign gov-
ernment while traveling under an
American passport.

PROTESTS THAT REQUEST

FOR RECALL IS UNJUST

Dr. Dumba, in his letter to Secretary
Lansing, protests that the request
for his recall is unjust, and complains
of the restrictions imposed by the
Washington government upon his com-
munications with Vienna. He says
that the diplomatic representatives of

FAVOR CARRANZA FOR RECOGNITION

Action of Pan-American Con-
ference Makes His Chances
Much Brighter.

TO DECIDE IN THREE WEEKS

In Meantime There Will Be Full
Inquiry Into Mexican
Affairs.

WASHINGTON, September 19.—Pros-
pects for the recognition of General
Carranza, it was admitted in official
quarters to-day, are much more favor-
able than they have been at any time
since the United States began to exert
its influence toward the establishment
of a central government in Mexico.

The decision of the Pan-American
conference of diplomats in New York
to study within the next three weeks
the "material and moral capacity" of
the elements aspiring to recognition
has led to the general belief here by
officials that, unless the military situ-
ation in Mexico was much changed in
that period, the recognition of the Car-
ranza movement is practically certain.

The United States and the several
governments which have taken the sit-
uation under advisement intend, how-
ever, to investigate carefully the phys-
ical state of affairs in Mexico to learn
whether the faction in military supre-
macy give promise as well of creating
a stable government.

LANSING TO HEAR

CLAIMS OF ALL FACTIONS

To demonstrate, in the meantime,
that the Carranza movement does not
control the territory it claims in Mex-
ico, will be the object of a delegation
of Villa-Zapata followers, expected to
arrive here this week. They will be
heard by Secretary Lansing, as well
separately the representatives of Car-
ranza.

To supplement their argument
here, that the Carranza movement
should not be recognized because of an
alleged lack of moral capacity, the Villa
party is planning an extensive guerilla
warfare.

Enrique C. Llorente, Washington
representative of General Villa, re-
turned from New York to-night, and
expressed the confidence that within
three weeks there would be ample proof
of the inability of Carranza to control
the territory he claims. He would not
state what plans for the guerilla cam-
paign had been made, but it is under-
stood that General Villa, using Chi-
huahua as a base, will send flying
columns into various parts of the re-
public, and by a series of successful
dashes endeavor to show the helplessness
of Carranza. There also will be
renewal of activity by the Zapata
forces in the south.

Mr. Llorente scouted the idea that
any foreigners would be endangered in
Villa territory, and was optimistic in
his expressions that the military situ-
ation would soon show a decided change
that would compel the Pan-American
conference to withhold recognition
from General Carranza.

SUNDAY REPORTED QUIET

IN RIO GRANDE DISTRICT

BROWNVILLE, TEX., September 19.—
Sunday was reported quiet by army
patrols throughout the Rio Grande
River district. There was some appre-
hension, however, of more fighting
across the Rio Grande, as the after-
math of Sunday celebrations following
the two days of disorder along the bor-
der since Mexican Independence Day.

CARRANZA REFUSES

TO COMMIT HIMSELF

VERA CRUZ, September 19.—Official
information concerning the proposed
intentions of the Pan-American diplo-
mats with regard to the Mexican situa-
tion, must be received by General Car-
ranza, first chief of the Constitution-
alists, before he will commit himself
by comment.

While General Carranza and his of-
ficial family to-day expressed pleasure
over the trend of affairs, General Car-
ranza told the Associated Press that he
would refrain from making a state-
ment until he had received an answer
to his note to the diplomats declining
to send a representative to the pro-
posed conference of the various fac-
tions, but making a counter-proposal
for a conference between his delegates
and the diplomats at some point along
the Rio Grande.

TO APPEAR IN AMERICA

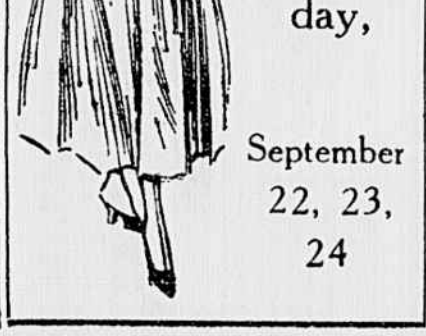
Metropolitan Opera Company An-
nounces Engagement of Cele-
brated Russian Ballet.

NEW YORK, September 19.—The
Metropolitan Opera Company an-
nounced to-day that Leon Bakst, the
Russian colorist, Warsaw Nijinski,
Tamara Karavina, Sophia Pflanz and
Leonide Massine, leading dancers, to-
gether with Serge de Diaghilev him-
self are coming to America during the
approaching season for performances
of the Diaghilev Imperial Ballet Russe
at the Metropolitan Opera House and
on tour.

Richmond's Fall Fashion Show

Begin
Next
Wednes-
day,

September
22, 23,
24



VILNA IS OCCUPIED BY GERMAN FORCES

Teutonic Forces Still Striving
to Control Great Railway Line

GERMAN Field Marshal von Hin-
denburg has scored another
victory, his forces occupying the
city of Vilna, on the Warsaw-Petro-
grad railway. Vilna was defended
for several weeks by the Russians,
who, according to a representative
of the Russian general staff, "con-
tinue with the greatest stubbornness
to defend the Vilna positions, which
are gradually shifting to the south-
west of the city."

In the Russian capital the situa-
tion is regarded as grave, but the
belief is expressed that serious bat-
tles are yet to be fought along this
front before the Austro-German
forces attain the object for which
they have been desperately striving
—control of the great railway line.

Both Field Marshal von Hinden-
burg and Prince Leopold of Liechten-
stein are engaged in an encircling move-
ment, with the intention of cutting
off large groups of Russian forces.
Regarding this, an official of the
Russian general staff says:

"The general situation in the

Vilna region is such that there can-
not be any talk of the possibility of
surrounding our armies."

A serious situation in Petrograd is
reported in dispatches from Stock-
holm, received by way of Berlin.
According to these dispatches, the
Duma buildings and all the railway
stations have been occupied by the
military, and eighteen members of
the Duma have been placed under
arrest.

Should these reports prove cor-
rect, it is probable that this action
by the government would be found
to be the outcome of the discussion
in the Duma over the rejection of
reforms proposed by the majority in
the chamber, and opposed by the
Cabinet and the prorogation of the
Duma by the Emperor.

The official statement from the
French War Office and a report from
Field Marshal Sir John French indi-
cate no change of importance in the
western zone, where most of the
fighting is being done, by means of
art, bombs and mines.

STEAMER ON FIRE AT SEA;
DOUBT AS TO IDENTITY

Described First as Donaldson Liner
Athenia, but Later Messages
Name Other Ships.

ABANDONED, SAYS WIRELESS

No Word of Fate of Crew or Possible
Passengers—The Tuscania Stands
By in Response to Calls for Help
When Fire Is Discovered.

HALIFAX, N. S., September 19.—
Wireless messages brought word of
the burning of a steamer at sea to-
night, but left in doubt the vessel's identity.

The steamer was described first as
the Donaldson liner Athenia, but sub-
sequent messages indicated that the
burning vessel might be the Greek
steamship Athina, bound from New
York for Piraeus. A report from Mon-
treal that the vessel was the former
German steamer Athanae, being taken
here as a prize, could not be confirmed.

The steamer was abandoned, accord-
ing to a message received late to-night
from Captain McLean, of the Anchor
liner Tuscania, which stood by in re-
sponse to wireless messages. There
was no word of the fate of the crew or
possible passengers.

The Donaldson Line steamer Athenia
is bound from a British port, believed
to be Glasgow, for Montreal or Quebec.
It was believed here that there are few,
if any, passengers on board.

STEAMER ABANDONED.

SAYS LATER MESSAGE

A later message to the Dominion
Marine Department said that the
steamer had been abandoned. The
Anchor liner Tuscania had previously
been reported standing by, and it was
thought here that she had taken off
those on board.

First word of the steamer's plight
reached here shortly before midnight
in a wireless dispatch to the Marine
Department, saying that fire, starting
in the forward part of the ship, spread
rapidly, and that the crew was unable
to control it.

Calls for help were sent out and the
Anchor Line steamer Tuscania, a
freighter from Glasgow for New York,
responded.

Word that the burning steamer had
been abandoned was contained in a
brief radiogram which was relayed
through the Cape Race station.

The steamer Athenia was built for
Donaldson Brothers, of Glasgow in
1904, and had been in the service of
their line since that time. Her voy-
ages for the most part were between
British and Canadian ports, carrying
freight, and at times a few passengers.
She was a twin screw vessel of 3,668
gross registry and a net tonnage of
5,573. She was 175 feet long.

COULD NOT POSSIBLY

HAVE BEEN FAR OUT AT SEA

MONTREAL, September 19.—The ves-
sel reported on fire in the Atlantic
is not the passenger liner Athenia, ac-
cording to Robert Reford & Co., local
agents of the Donaldson Line, who
received advices to-night that the boat
on fire is the Athanae, a former Ger-
man vessel which was being taken to
Halifax as a British prize.

To substantiate their claim that the
ship on fire is not the Donaldson liner
Athenia, the local agents of the line
declared that the Athenia left Glasgow
yesterday for Montreal, and that, there-
fore, she could not possibly have been
far out at sea.

TO APPEAR IN AMERICA

Metropolitan Opera Company An-
nounces Engagement of Cele-
brated Russian Ballet.

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Russian colorist, Warsaw Nijinski,
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gether with Serge de Diaghilev him-
self are coming to America during the
approaching season for performances
of the Diaghilev Imperial Ballet Russe
at the Metropolitan Opera House and
on tour.

NOW ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE PART OF RUSSIAN ARMY

Czar's Troops Almost Sur-
rounded in Railway
Triangle.

ONLY ONE LINE ENTIRELY
IN HANDS OF MUSCOVITES

Must Fight Way Out or Re-
tire in Southeasterly
Direction.

BOTH CLAIM GAINS IN WEST

Political Situation in Balkans Still
Shrouded With Consider-
able Mystery.

BERLIN, September 19 (via London).
—The Russian city of Vilna, at which
the armies of Field Marshal von Hin-
denburg had been driving, and which
was stubbornly defended until nearly
surrounded by hostile forces has been
occupied by the Germans. It was of-
ficially announced by German army
headquarters to-day.

Vilna, a city of some 170,000 inhabi-
tants on the Warsaw-Petrograd rail-
way line has been the object of a Ger-
man offensive movement for weeks
past in the course of the widespread
operations of Field Marshal von Hin-
denburg on the northern end of the
extended battle line in the east.

After the fall of Kovno, to the north-
west, and Grodno, to the southwest,
the fortress barrier remained before the
Germans moving on Vilna, but stub-
born defensive measures were taken by
the Russians to hold back the Teutonic
advance, Vilna being the northern key
position on the important strategic
railway line running southeastward to
Rovno, which the Russians were striving
to retain.

The fall of Vilna had been antici-
pated for several days, the German en-
circling movement having developed
sufficiently to make it apparent that its
abandonment was only a question of
time. Last week, Petrograd dispatches
stated that Vilna, as well as Dyvinsk,
another of Field Marshal von Hinden-
burg's objectives had been emptied of
stores and abandoned by government
and private institutions. It was de-
clared that neither point was regarded
as further strategic importance except
as a section of the general front, and
that it was not the purpose of the
Russian general staff to defend Vilna
at all costs.

With the capture of Vilna, the Ger-
mans seem likely to find a more easily
opened route to Dyvinsk, virtually the
entire railroad line leading northeast-
ward to that city now apparently being
in their hands.